

**REMARKS**

**I. SOME CLAIMS ARE AMENDED AND SOME NEW CLAIMS ARE ADDED**

Applicants amended some claims and added a few new claims, based on the original claims. Claim amendments are not made for any reasons relating to patentability, and none of the amendments introduces new matter. The amendments and new claims are supported by the specification, considered as a whole, e.g., at page 9, lines 29-31.

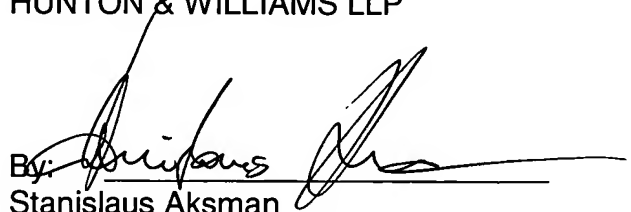
**II. REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE**

An indication of allowance of all claims is solicited.

In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges, please charge or credit any difference to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP

By:   
Stanislaus Aksman  
Registration No. 28,562

Dated: January 14, 2004

HUNTON & WILLIAMS  
1900 K Street, NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20006-1109  
(202) 955-1500 (Telephone)  
(202) 778-2201 (Facsimile)